

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-119

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Sept 10, '99 and draw  
shortly afterwards

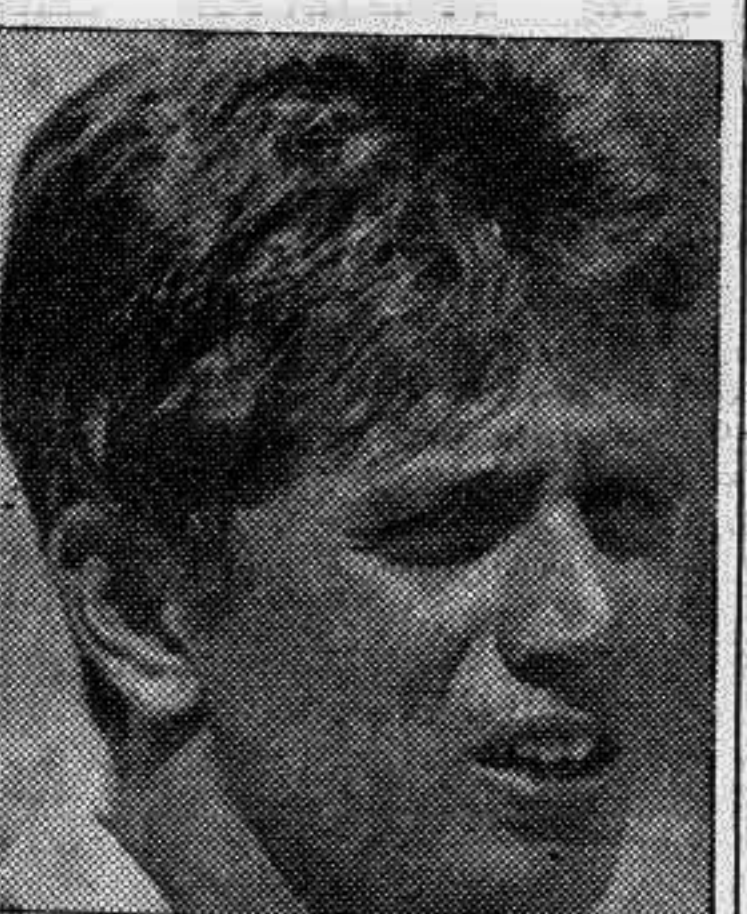
- Who are the current FA Cup champions?  
Man United Arsenal Liverpool
- Who is Sri Lanka's cricket coach?  
Whitmore Yardley Fernando
- Who won the Confederations' Cup title?  
Brazil Mexico USA
- Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?  
Minhazul Akram Aminul
- Which stadium will host the final of 2002 World Cup?  
Yokohama Suzuki Nagoya

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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## SPORTS TALK



**Rahul Dravid**  
(Indian cricketer)  
"I do not have words to describe my feelings."  
After being named the Arjuna Award winner.

**Mohali can't afford the Test?**

CHANDIGARH, Sept 6: Uncertainty hung over Mohali being the venue of the first cricket Test match between India and New Zealand next month as the organisers Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) yesterday decided that it would not be economically viable to host the event there, reports PTI.

The PCA, at its executive committee meeting here, decided that it might forgo the Test, scheduled to be held from October 10-14, or shift the venue to Chandigarh in case tickets for that match was not exempted from entertainment tax by the state government, a PCA spokesman said.

The state government has not renewed the notification exempting entertainment tax on international cricket matches which expired in 1995, the spokesman said.

**Ctg kishore football from today**

CHITTAGONG, Sept 6: Seraj Mahanagari kishore football competition will begin at the Dampara Police Lines ground here on September 7, reports BSS.

Ten teams dividing into two groups are participating in the competition being held under the auspices of Chittagong Mahanagari Sports Association (CMSA).

The teams are:  
Group 'A': Blue Star, Eden Star, Agrabad Pioneers, Amra Tarun and Hazi Para Krira Sangsha.

Group 'B': Jhannarpar Club, Pahartali Club, Aloran, Ullash and Shapla Sangha.

The defending champions Blue Star will take Amra Tarun Club at the inaugural match.

A budget of over taka one lakh has been allocated for the competition, CMSA sources said.

The champion and the runners-up will receive cash award of taka five thousands and taka three thousands respectively. The best player-of-the-final and the highest scorer will also be awarded.



The Ghanaian footballers relaxing in Sheraton hotel balcony.

—Star photo

## Football fiesta final today

Sports Reporter

The 2nd Bangabandhu Cup International Football Tournament awaits a befitting finish with the Ghana Olympic team and the combined Football League selection of Japan locking horns in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The showdown, which will mark the end of a 12-day football fiesta involving twelve teams from across the world, will kick off at 5pm.

A colourful closing ceremony at 4.15 pm will precede the game. Bangladesh Rifles will present a callisthenic spectacle.

Bangladesh Television will cover the inter-continental clash live from the big bowl, while Bangladesh Betar will air running commentary of what promises to be a fierce contest between the two richly-deserving finalists.

The winners will be richer by Taka 3 lakh while the runners-up will receive a lakh less. Besides, the man-of-the-final will win 500 US\$, and the man-of-the-tournament and the highest scorer 2000 US\$ each.

Ghana's Italian coach Gysseppe Dossena said that his team has a "fifty-fifty chance". His spirited boys will certainly walk into the final as favourites against the never-say-die semi-professional Japanese side.

Tipped as one of the pre-tournament favourites, the youthful Africans stormed into the final with a 2-1 victory over Hungary's Kerulet FC in the first semi-final on Sunday. On the other hand, the Japanese needed a "golden goal" from their golden boy Taku Watanabe to squeak past arch rivals South Korea in a keenly-contested second semi-final the same day.

Although both sides got some rest to recuperate after an

energy-sapping business-only day ago, they are ready to face the final challenge for ultimate glory. Ghana underwent an ex-day morning and the Japanese chose light practice in preparation for today's final. And, on their return from the practice session, both the coaches said that they were inclined not to disturb their respective winning combination.

"We are likely to retain the same team that played in the semi-final", said the Ghanaian coach Dossena while talking to the reporters at the Sheraton Hotel, the temporary abode for all the participating teams.

"It's true that the players are

tacking football, may have won the semi-final by the barest of margins, but they deserved a more resounding win against Hungary's Kerulet FC.

"We got more chances than we have scored. But then you will have to admit the simple fact that it's the win which counts at the end of the day", said the Italian.

"But this is a crunch game and the Japanese will be the toughest opponents to beat", rounded off the soft-spoken Ghanaian coach.

While Dossena expressed guarded optimism his Japanese counterpart Shinji Tanaka termed the Ghanaians as "the most dangerous team".

Talking to the reporters with the aid of an interpreter, Tanaka rated his opponents as a highly skilled side.

"They are physically strong and are capable of moving with menacing pace. But it does not matter, as we are ready to give our hundred percent", said Tanaka.

"We have some minor injuries in the team, but I'm more concerned about the time that we have got to recharge the

wearing team", said Tanaka. That explained Japan's light practice session.

The Japanese coach however said that the date with Ghana has given his team a unique opportunity to have the taste of a different ball game.

"We really wanted to play Ghana because their style is different from Asian football. It will also be a good experience for us", said the Japanese coach.

While elaborating his game plan the Japanese coach said: "The Ghanaians love to move freely. All we have to do is to upset their rhythm and then rely on our experienced forwards to make the most from last counter attacks".

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## BCB fills six for Barlow's trial match

Sports Reporter

The first trial match, a three-day affair, of the national cricket team will start at the BKSP on Thursday. But with only 17 cricketers now attending the residential camp at the country's lone sports institute in Savar, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is contemplating to call at least six more players as fillers.

The BCB called up 38 cricketers to prepare the national team for a series of international matches against the touring West Indies, who are scheduled to arrive in the city on October 1, and the visiting English A side later. But the newly-appointed South African coach Eddie Barlow never got the full selection together for a single day.

With several top-notch cricketers, including skipper Aminul Islam, skipping training to meet their commitment in the US minor league, the camp started with 25 players. But the Barlow camp got a deserted look when Brothers Union yesterday carried with them as many as ten players to play in an invitational tournament in India.

"We have decided to call six players as fillers so that we can start the match", said chief selector Tanvir Haider yesterday. Tanvir however said that the camp would start in full swing on September 10.

## Anamika falls victim to fraud?

Sports Reporter

It appears that karateka Anamika Hoque is a victim of a cruel round being played by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation. The champion athlete for the last six years was ousted from the SAF camp where she had been training from February, that is the very beginning of the preparations for the regional games. In her place, another non-entity woman, who has never won gold in Bangladesh, has been selected.

According to reports five members of the Selection Committee has said in a written statement that they did select Anamika for this month's SAF Games in Nepal. Earlier the J&K Federation general secretary Niaz Rahim said in a letter to Anamika on September 1 that the Selection Committee had deselected her.

It would be very unfortunate if a medal prospect finds herself caught in the dirty milieu that seems to have been the cause of the regression of Bangladesh sports.

Sports observers now believe that at least one party -- either Niaz Rahim or the Selection Committee -- is misrepresenting the facts. The NSC and the BCB should look into the matter immediately.



Members of the Japanese squad jog in Ramna Park yesterday. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Hockey star Rabi slips into coma

Sports Reporter

National hockey defender Rabiuddin Ahmed, who suffered a head injury on August 29 while playing basketball on the court of the Physical Training Institute in Mohammadpur, slipped into deep coma yesterday.

Rabi was under the observation of neuro-surgeons Prof. Rashiduddin Ahmed, Prof. Afzal Hossain and Dr. Kanak



RABIUDDIN AHMED

Kanti Barua at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital. Rabi sustained the injury after the back of his head struck the concrete floor of the basketball court.

His condition remained critical for the last eight days at the ICU before the attending doctors declared him "clinically dead" yesterday and put him under an artificial respiratory system.

Well-wishers, including some doctors of the sports arena, blamed "negligence" on the part of the attending surgeons for mistreating Rabiuddin.

Rabi was under close observation of Prof. Afzal till our filing of this report last night.

It may be mentioned that Rabi, who had been playing for Abahani in the local hockey league for the last couple of seasons, was initially called to the primary camp of the national team a few days back. But the defender opted to appear in the B.P.E.D exam under the Physical Training Institute this year and did not join the camp.

A job at the Dhaka University as Physical Instructor was almost ensured for Rabi if he could have passed the exam. Rabi married a year back.

## Gavin given all-clear

LONDON, Sept 6 (Internet report): Gavin Hamilton now expects to report fit for England's tour of South Africa this winter. The Yorkshire all-rounder broke down for the second time in a month last week with a recurring hamstring problem, but scans have revealed no tear in his hamstring and no problems in his lower back.

The county club's physio Carl Becker, who suggested Hamilton may not play again this season, said: "It seems that Gavin has just not given himself enough time to recover in his eagerness to play, and with proper rest and strengthening he will be fine."

"He will not play this week and although he could return for the last game against Surrey next week we will have to weigh up whether it is worth the risk of his not being able to rest before the tour."

Third-placed Yorkshire are already decimated by injuries to their seam bowlers with Darren Gough, Matthew Hoggard and Paul Hutchinson also sidelined, and Hamilton's return would be welcome.

However, the Scot who starred in this year's World Cup is relieved his England career will not be put on hold.

"It is a weight off my mind," he said. "I was very worried when I went for the scans that my tour might be off and I don't know how I would have coped with that disappointment."

## Tendulkar returns to challenge Lara Stage set for final showdown



SACHIN TENDULKAR

SINGAPORE, Sept 6 (AFP): Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar confirmed Monday he would lead his side in Tuesday's final against the West Indies in the Singapore International Challenge cricket tournament.

Tendulkar rested himself for Sunday's round-robin game against the same opponents.

But after a practice session Monday, he told reporters: "I am sure I will be able to play the final."

The news agency said the Australian Cricket Board will confirm Border's interim appointment Tuesday and the 44-year-old, who has scored more Test runs than any other batsman, said he was interested in the full-time role.

But Border repeated his call that "a few things had to fall into place" before he decided whether he wanted to take over from Marsh.

"I love the game and it's good to have that direct involvement but it's very part-time at the moment," Border said. "There's no point reading anything into it because it's one of those things where I have to wait and see."

Border, who is a national selector, has coached Australia in an interim capacity before, guiding the team through a brief tournament in Sharjah.

The left-hander captained Australia in 93 of his 156 Tests, scoring 11,174 runs at an average of 50.56 before he retired from test play and helped Queensland state to a Sheffield Shield domestic title in 1994/95.

He emerged as an obvious candidate for the coaching role when Marsh announced his surprise resignation last month, citing family reasons for his decision to quit soon after signing a new contract.

Queensland coach John Buchanan and former test wicketkeeper Steve Rixon, who finished his tenure as New Zealand coach last month, are also believed to be contenders for the position.

Also coming back into the side will be paceman Venkatesh Prasad and leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who were also rested for the Sunday game.

Ajay Jadeja is ruled out because of a calf injury he suffered while batting against Zimbabwe.

Making way for the three in the side that took the field under the captaincy of Saurav Ganguly are likely to be opener Sadagoppan Ramesh, young paceman Laxmi Ratan Shukla, who has a sore ankle, and left-hand batsman Amey Khurasia.

The West Indians too will be at full strength. Courtney Walsh having been rested for the Sunday game.

The real battle is expected to be between the rival captains Tendulkar and Brian Lara.

It has been a batsman's tournament so far and the final should be no exception. The pitch has played hard and true, with little assistance for the bowlers.

Weather, however, could be a dampener. The previous two matches in the tournament had to be reduced to 30 overs a side from 50 following heavy early morning showers.

**SQUADS**  
**INDIA(From):** Sachin Tendulkar(Captain), Saurav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Ajay Jadeja, Amay Khurasia, Robin

**WEST INDIES(From):** Brian Lara(Captain), Ridley Jacobs, Sherwin Campbell, Shivnarin Chanderpaul, Jimmy Adams, Ricardo Powell, Nehemiah Perry, Hendy Brian, Marvyn Dillon, Ron King, Courtney Walsh, Nixon McLean, Wevel Hinds, Adrian Griffith.

Singh, Mannava Prasad, Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble, Venkatesh Prasad, Debashish Mohanti, Nikhil Chopra, Vinod Kamble, Laxminarain Shukla, Vinod Kamble.

against Sri Lanka six days ago. Resuming at 39 for no loss, Blewett and Michael Slater made use of some ordinary bowling by the Board XI spinners to put together an opening stand of 115.

After Slater went edging a catch to De Saram at slip off left-arm spinner Rangana Herath for 51, Blewett and Justin Langer put together a further stand of 134 for the second wicket.

Langer was missed at one when Russel Arnold failed to hold onto an easy return catch, and made use of the miss to score a half-century.

Blewett's innings was terminated with the score at 249, when De Saram pulled off a great one-handed catch at mid-on as he lofted Indika Gallage.

The Board XI pulled back after Blewett's dismissal, grabbed

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## Alleyne to lead team in Dhaka

LONDON, Sept 6 (Internet): Mark Alleyne was today chosen to lead a 15-strong England A squad mixed with youth and experience on this winter's tour to Bangladesh and New Zealand.

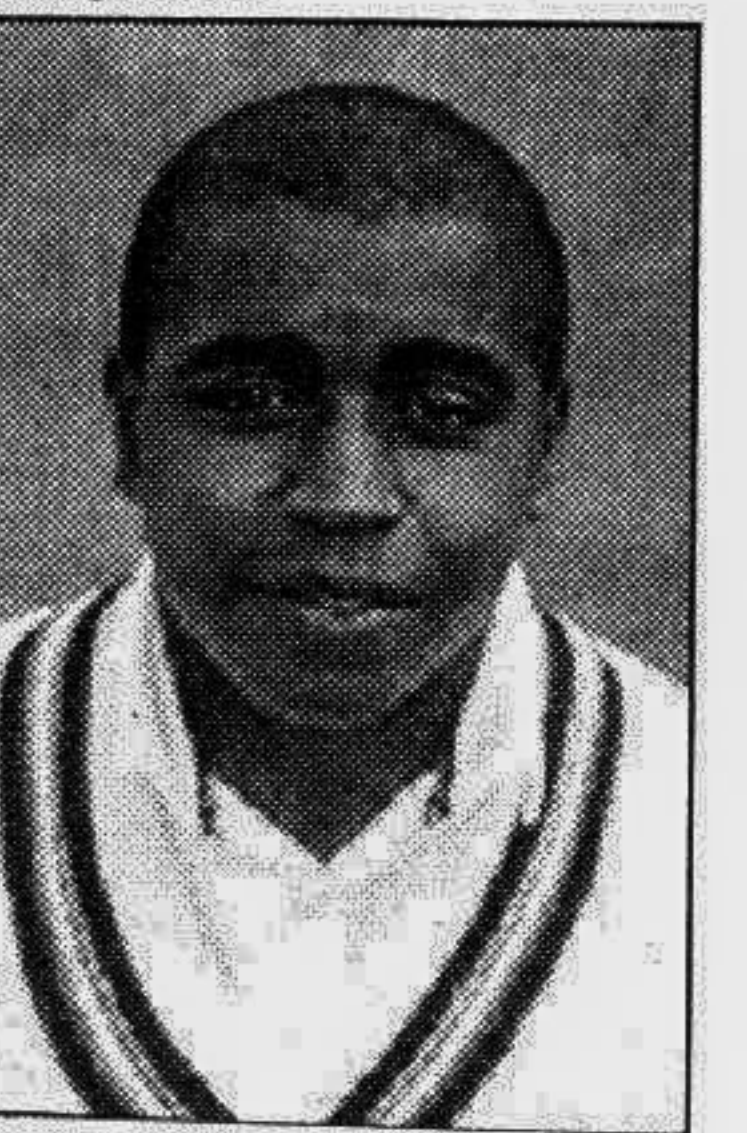
The 31-year-old all-rounder, who has been chosen for England's one-day tournament with South Africa and Zimbabwe in January, earned the honour after guiding Gloucestershire to both the Benson and Hedges Super Cup and the NatWest Trophy this season.

Three members of his A squad - Somerset wicketkeeper Rob Turner, Durham fast bowler Stephen Harmison and Yorkshire's Chris Silverwood - will be on stand-by for the senior tour to South Africa, which runs almost concurrently to the A trip.

Warwickshire pair Nick Knight and Ashley Giles, also in the one-day party, have also been placed on stand-by should injuries occur in South Africa but both have been overlooked for the A trip to allow the selectors to look at emerging youngsters.

Discarded Test pair Aftab Habib and Ronnie Irani, both selected during the series defeat by New Zealand but overlooked

for the senior tour, have been chosen to add experience to an A team which will play two Tests and three one-day internationals in New Zealand after three weeks' preparation in Bangladesh.



MARK ALLEYNE

Chairman of selectors David Graveney said: "In choosing the A squad we were keen to give a number of our stand-by players for the senior tour of South Africa the opportunity of regu-

lar match practice against high quality opposition.

"We've also sought to strike a balance between recognising the achievements of players who have had outstanding domestic seasons."

Turner, who will also act as vice-captain on the A tour, is one of those players who have impressed this season - as has Worcestershire's Alamgir Shiyar, who is the leading first-class wicket-taker in this country and will also tour.

The under-19s both past and present are also represented, with current captain Michael Gough of Durham being given his first A tour as are highly-rated Lancashire leg-spinner Chris Schofield and Northamptonshire left-arm spinner Michael Davies.

Sacked selector Mike Gatting will manage the party, which departs on October 17, with Yorkshire's Martyn Moxon becoming coach - his first appointment of this type at international level.

**SQUAD**  
M Alleyne (Cap), R Turner (wkt), M Davies, P Franks, M Gough, S Harmison, A Habib, R Irani, D Sales, C Schofield, C Silverwood, A Sherryar, V Solanki, M Trescottick, I Ward.  
Tour manager: M Gatting  
Tour coach: M Moxon

## Wasim may be kept waiting

KARACHI, Sept 6 (Internet report): Wasim Akram's return to the Toronto tour party of Pakistan hangs in the balance as majority of selectors reportedly prefer to go slow about making any decision.

The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) ad hoc committee has been advised by his close associates against lifting the suspension on Wasim immediately and making him available for selection for matches against the West Indies in Canada.

Wasim, former captain

Salim Malik and batsman Ijaz Ahmed have been banned by Pakistan cricket authorities from playing for their country until the probe is over.

The News daily reported that Mujeeb Rehman held discussions with his close aides, including adviser and chief selector Colonel (ret'd) Naushad Ali, member of the ad hoc committee Javed Zaman and Pakistan manager Yawar Saeed, and they all felt the PCB should not rush into lifting the ban on Wasim to allow him to play in Toronto.

It is understood that Naushad and Yawar have advised Mujeeb that it would be better if the PCB waited for Jus-

tice Malik Muhammad Qayyum's judicial commission to conclude its inquiry into match-fixing and betting allegations and submit its findings, before making a decision.

Though indications are that Wasim is going to be cleared by the commission of involvement in match-fixing due to the lack of evidence and also because his main accuser, Ataur Rehman, has withdrawn his allegations. Quoting reliable sources the newspaper says the PCB will now wait for a complete clearance from the commission before lifting the ban.

The Commission is due to See page 14



GREG BLEWETT

COLOMBO, Sept 6 (AFP): Australia thrashed a Sri Lanka Board XI to secure a four-wicket win Monday by overcoming a formidable 321 target ahead of their first Test in the central town of Kandy.

Australian opener Greg Blewett stroked an impressive century as Australia took the challenge in the fourth innings and finished the match off shortly before tea on the fourth and final day at the Saravana-muttu Stadium.

Blewett struck 20 fours in a superb display of batting for 248 minutes, scoring 148.

He faced 278 balls and the nearest he came to being dismissed was at 67 when captain Hasan Tillekeratne attempted to convert a difficult chance into a catch at short leg off leg-

against Sri Lanka six days ago. Resuming at 39 for no loss, Blewett and Michael Slater made use of some ordinary bowling by the Board XI spinners to put together an opening stand of 115.

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